

# **SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY CHILDREN'S NETWORK CBO PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM**

## **HIGH DESERT PARTNERSHIP FOR KIDS**

### **MISSION/PURPOSE**

The High Desert Partnership for Kids is a child-focused consortium, committed to sharing collective knowledge and resources to promote the well being of children in the High Desert.

### **MEETING MINUTES FEBRUARY 10, 2003**

#### **In Attendance:**

Vici Nagel, High Desert Community Coalition  
Mireya Perez, Community Tool Box  
Burlena Doss, SGI.USA Victory Over Violence  
Yukiko Hart, SGI.USA Victory Over Violence  
Veronica Ingersoll, SB County Department of Public Health  
Matt Baca, SB County Department of Public Health  
Debra Guzman, VCSS, Inc./DM FICS  
Julian Weaver, SB County Schools  
Socorro Castanon, VVCSC  
Tracy Gomez, VVCSC  
Cheryl Norton, St. John of God Health Care  
Donna Roberts, Wake-Up, Inc.  
Cathy Smith, Alpha Connection  
Melanie Regalado, AVUSD Preschool Family Center  
Michelle Gaona, Catholic Charities  
Vel O'Brien, Preschool Services (Head Start)  
Irma A Rios, Healthy Families  
Pamela Thompson, Loving The Lamb Ministries  
Carol Ardrey, Loving The Lamb Ministries  
Michele Girard, DPH – PALS – YESS  
Frances Mills, DCS – Victorville  
Marilyn Lott, DCS – Victorville  
Liz Dansie, Girl Scout Victorville  
Mary Jaquish, CBO Partnership Program – Chair  
Tammy Williams, Children's Network

#### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

Mary welcomed all those present and self-introductions were made. Mary welcomed the presenter Susan Culbertson from the Training Academy – CSUSD Department of Social Work.

#### **2. Additions/Deletions to Agenda**

No additions or deletions were noted.

### 3. Approval of January Minutes

There were no corrections or deletions to the minutes. Be sure and review the funding information included in your agenda packets.

### 4. Guest Speaker Susan Culbertson, Training Academy – CSUSB Department of Social Work

Susan has a background of 22 years working at Department of Children's Services, Child Protective Services and now works with California State University San Bernardino, Department of Social Work, and The Training Academy. Susan passed out a variety of handouts.

Some of the highlights discussed were:

- Will conduct training anywhere in the county.
- Specializes in children's issues.
- They are now conducting a needs assessment.
- There are 60 to 80 trainers to train on a variety of topics.
- They can provide multi-agency, multi-disciplinary training.
- Offer CEU's for: LCSW; MFTs; BRN looking into; K-DAC; Group Home Administration; and Law Enforcement.
- They train professionals and volunteers.
- They are aware of many training opportunities.
- Susan referred everyone to the Save The Date flyer for **May 15, 2003 for The Fifth Annual Case Management Symposium presents "Multi-Agency Partnerships: Working Together in the Best Interest of the Client"**
- The MSW (Masters in Social Work) program is up and running.
- They will soon be offering a BA in SW (Bachelor of Arts in Social Work) program.
- California State University San Bernardino is aware of the need for a program in the high desert.
- They can offer training programs as little as 2 hours or up to 8 hours that is very cost effective.
- Susan can share more information at a later date on the Latino Social Work Conference at the Ontario Doubletree.
- They can offer training in Spanish, but it will take a little longer.
- They have offered 2 classes in Spanish on how to investigate for Child Protective Services.

### 5. Handouts and Round Table Discussion

√Mary Jaquish reported: Mary mentioned over the weekend she went to a workshop put on by BRASS. There were many workshops based on faith-based and children with numerous speakers. Mary mentioned she got some very good information on how parents could reach their children. Faith will possibly retire in March. Mary mentioned to make sure that herself or Tammy have your current e-mail address, since Mary sends out on an average of 15 funding opportunities a week. The Children's Network web site [www.co.san-bernardino.ca.us/childnet](http://www.co.san-bernardino.ca.us/childnet) also has all the current funding information as well as what was handed out the previous month. Mary reminded everyone to look at their agenda packets, which lists the current resource information; specifically the Nehemiah Corporation of California assists with down payments for housing, (Mary has pamphlets she can share). Mary referred everyone to the Children's Network Annual Report that Susan Melanson did a great job on and has some very useful stats listed in the back. **The Children's Network annual**

**Shine the Light Breakfast is On March 26<sup>th</sup> at the Double Tree in Ontario.** Tammy has tickets available for \$10 each. **On March 1<sup>st</sup>** there will be a Male Responsibility workshop to cover several areas, for more information contact **Noella Buchanan at (909) 356-4221.** Mary mentioned you could e-mail her (mjaquish@hss.sbcounty.gov) about the funding for homeless, as she has lots of information to share. Mary mentioned to save the date, **March 26<sup>th</sup> 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for the Community Services Department conference, 'Restoring Dignity and Hope for the Homeless' – for more information contact (909) 891-3884.** Another announcement, **The Drowning Prevention Conference will be on February 25<sup>th</sup> at Loma Linda University Medical Center, Wong Kerlee Conference Center and should be a very good conference – please refer to your handout.** Mary announced the **Inland Empire Cops & Clergy Network conference on February 13<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Rain Cross Square in Riverside.** It should be a great conference and you can contact Officer Felix Medina at (909) 826-5939 for further details. **Children's Fund has an Administrative Assistant opening, please see flyer for further details or call Children's Fund at (909) 387-4949.**

√ Vici Nagel of the High Desert Community Coalitions reported: Vici referred everyone to their new brochure she handed out. Also, she had a flyer on a Media Advocacy workshop that is free and conducted by UCLA on **February 12<sup>th</sup>.** Vici mentioned to give her your e-mail address so that she can inform you of upcoming events and information.

√ Mireya Perez of the Community Tool Box reported: The new Neighborhood Academy just started with 24 participants and half were youth. They will be meeting tonight, **February 10<sup>th</sup>.**

√ Burlena Doss of SGI.USA Victory Over Violence reported: **On March 16<sup>th</sup> in Orange County there will be a Youth Cultural Festival.** The festival is free and focuses on promoting non-violence. They will bring a flyer to the next meeting to share with everyone.

√ Matt Baca and Veronica Ingersoll of SB County Department of Public Health, Reproductive Health Services reported: They are working on a Needs Assessment. In January they turned in a grant proposal for an Abstinence Program for the local high schools that includes some parenting. They can come back and share the data and reports with this group in either May or June, 2003.

√ Debra Guzman of VCSS, Inc./DM FICS reported: They provide intensive family services in the home for the child with a mental health diagnosis. The goal is to avoid a higher level of placement unless absolutely necessary. They were accepting referrals only from DBH (Department of Behavioral Health), and now accept them from the local schools. You can contact them at (760) 246-4695.

√ Julian Weaver of County Schools reported: He is glad to be back here and at work.

√ Cynthia Baker of the Oasis Bonding Center reported: Cynthia referred everyone to a handout that gives the details of their Oasis Bonding Center. They provide 10 days of workshops that cover a variety of topics for the pregnant mother and father. They have 4 cottages the mothers can stay in for the workshops if they choose, or drive daily to the Oasis Bonding Center. For further information they can be reached at (760) 256-9530.

√ Socorro Castanon of VVCSC reported: She provides outreach to families for Medi-Cal and Healthy Families. Her goal is to make sure all the children she comes in contact with have medical insurance. She asked the group to continue to send names by fax (760) 243-6742 or call her at (760) 245-8592. Her goal is to sign up 60 more children this month. Socorro will go to the families to

make sure they get signed up for Medi-Cal and Healthy Families. Socorro mentioned that the families do not need to be afraid of immigration.

√ Tracy Gomez of VVCSC reported: **They are planning the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Human Race Event on June 7<sup>th</sup> at Victor Valley Community College in Victorville.** The event is a fundraiser for local non-profits. They get free advertising in the newspaper and radio.

Tracy referred everyone to the flyers she handed out with the details. The next Planning Meeting is **March 5<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. at the American Medical Response, 14828 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Victorville.**

√ Liz Dansie of Girl Scouts VV reported: This month they start the cookie sales. Liz mentioned that Girl Scouts have been around for 90 years and is a very positive organization for young girls in helping them to become successful as future wives, mothers, and in their careers. Liz can be reached at (760) 241-3558.

√ Vel Gilbert of Running Springs reported: Vel would like to open a home in Lake Arrowhead on April 1<sup>st</sup> for pregnant teens and parenting teens. She plans to provide them with housing, nutrition, childcare, transportation, etc. Vel asked the group if anyone could assist her with applying as: a non-profit corporation; apply for grants; and donations of furniture, beds, dressers, cribs, etc. Vel can be reached at (909) 867-3171.

√ Cheryl Norton of St. John of God Health Care reported: Children's Network cancelled the Family Celebration Picnics on April 5<sup>th</sup>. The desert community will still have their own event on April 5<sup>th</sup> 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. to kick off child abuse prevention month. She will bring a flyer with more detailed information. Last July, St John of God Health Care was funded for a 3-phase program for mothers needing transitional living, etc. The current group is in the second phase and is attending college classes.

√ Donna Roberts, Wake-Up, Inc. reported: Donna is involved in just kicking off a new program called HIPPE. It is a 30-week home instruction program for parents/caretakers of 3, 4, and 5 year olds. The home visitors teach the parents/caretakers and then they teach the children in their care many subjects to prepare them entering school. The program also helps the parent by building their self-esteem and building a stronger bond between the children and parents. The program is nationwide and is new to this county. They presently have a staff of 4 home visitors with 21 children signed up. Donna mentioned she could do a presentation to this collaborative in May or June on the project.

√ Melanie Regalado of AVUSD Preschool Family Center reported: The Family Preschool Center just opened and has vacancies. The parents just need to show proof of Apple Valley residence. They are also starting a parent hotline, language development program, etc.

√ Michelle Gaona of Catholic Charities reported: They provide emergency services such as; mortgage assistance, rent, utilities, etc. for High Desert families. They are taking applications for the HEEP program. They are having funding problems now. Michelle can be reached at (760) 243-2311 X8454.

√ Vel O'Brien of Preschool Services (Head Start) reported: Vel thanked Socorro for assisting the families to sign up all the children in Baker for health insurance. The HEEP program has been operating out of their Victorville and Apple Valley offices. They will now only have the HEEP program in the Apple Valley office. Vel will bring a flyer on the community event to be held in May at the fairgrounds. They were able to coordinate with First 5 and the Loma Linda University

School of Dentistry to transport children from the high desert who were really suffering with dental problems affecting their health. This is a weekly trip that occurs for children in severe need of dentistry work. Vel referred everyone to the flyer from Sandy Golden of the Campaign for Alcohol Free Kids (909) 496-7800 and mentioned what a great car safety seat program it is. The Head start program is full throughout the county, but they are taking applications for the new school year for the low income 3 and younger. They also have a Special Needs program at 4 to 5 sites in the desert. Vel can be reached at (760) 951-3430.

√Irma Rios of Healthy Families reported: At the clinic in Hesperia they are able to sign up healthy families for Medi-Cal. They also offer free immunizations twice a year. June 11<sup>th</sup> they will host a community event and will share the details.

√Pamela Thompson of Loving the Lamb reported: They are a Christian non-profit organization that works with severe trauma cases. They were able to purchase a home and expect a move in date in February. A new pastor that is 22 years old just joined them. They are looking for grants so they will have the ability to offer more services.

√Frances Mills and Marilyn Lott of DCS Victorville reported: They both mentioned there is much more of a need for resources now due to budget cuts, etc. They appreciate hearing about services at this meeting they can access for the families they serve.

√Michele Girard of SB Department of Public Health – PALS – YESS reported: She works with children who have a truancy problem of missing more than 20 days. Michele has 30 children on her caseload and coordinates services for them with the Court, Probation, and Department of Children's Services. She is involved with a pilot program on the campus to stop violence with the counselors referring the children. Michele mentioned that the families, who get a public welfare grant, have cuts in their grant when their children do not attend school.

Mary mentioned that the guest speaker for the March meeting would be Michael Martinez from the D.A. (District Attorney) office. His presentation will cover community prosecution. He works with various programs that assist the community. Michael also usually speaks once a week at the Parole Orientation meeting.

Mary mentioned that the County budget is not well and we will not know until later in the year what the outcomes will be.

## 6. **Next Meeting Date:**

The next meeting will be held on **Monday, March 10, 2003, at 9:00 a.m. at the Desert Mountain Educational Center, 17800 Outer Highway 18, Apple Valley.**

Respectfully submitted,

TAMMY WILLIAMS, Recording Secretary  
Children's Network

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